



## HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF UNICEF BELGIUM



@MonarchieBe

Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians deploys the Queen's Charities, which offer help to citizens struggling to cope with financial hardship in their daily lives and turn to her as a last resort. Her Majesty takes part in the social debate on subjects of relevance to the population and has a particular concern for vulnerable people. As Honorary President of the Queen Mathilde Fund, the Queen endeavours to assist the weakest members of our society.

The Queen is also concerned with a range of social issues including education, child poverty, intergenerational poverty, the position of women in society and literacy.

The Queen is Honorary President of Child Focus, Foundation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children. Children's well-being is for her a fundamental principle and she dedicates herself to the fight against abduction and all forms of sexual abuse.

The Queen is Honorary President of UNICEF Belgium and of the Breast International Group (a non-profit organisation for academic breast cancer research groups from around the world). She was the World Health Organisation Europe's Special Representative for Immunisation. Her Majesty the Queen is also an Advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.



## DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



@EP\_President

David Sassoli was born in Florence. He embraced a journalism career as a news reporter and news correspondent for the Italian public channel RAI 3. Subsequently, he worked on several news programmes on Rai 1 and Rai 2. In 1999, he moved to the editorial staff at TG1 as a special correspondent. Throughout the following decade, he focused on managing the main editions of the channel's news programmes and on key domestic and international political events.

On 1 July 2014, Mr. Sassoli was elected a Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the European Parliament with responsibility for Mediterranean Policy and the budget. As a member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), he was rapporteur for the European railway reform (4th Railway Package) and the Single European Sky.

On 26 May 2019 he was re-elected for a new term and in July of the same year was elected President of the European Parliament.

## DAVID BISBAL

UNICEF GOODWILL AMBASSADOR



@davidbisbal



David Bisbal is a Spanish singer, songwriter and actor who, in 2017, was appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Spain. His work to support child rights started much earlier, in 2004, when David participated in campaigns and initiatives led by UNICEF in his home country. For UNICEF he travelled to Venezuela and Nepal.

At the end of 2016, David donated to UNICEF the full copyright of his song “Duele Demasiado”, dedicated to children who had to leave their homes due to armed conflicts and war. The video of the song made 3,5 million views on Youtube.

“Duele Demasiado” will be performed in the European Parliament at the opening of the event.

## MAITE PAGAZAURTUNDÚA

FIRST VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE)



@maitepagaza

Maite Pagazaurtundúa was born in Hernani (Basque Country) in a working class family. She is a Spanish politician, activist and writer.

She has dedicated several years combating terrorism, hate speech and nationalism. Her public position in the front line against terrorists meant a high level of harassment, threats and physical aggressions, forcing her to live under police protection for 13 years. She has defended freedom, justice and equality for decades. She was President of the Victims of Terrorism Foundation in Spain.

She is currently a Member of the European Parliament within the Spanish delegation of *Ciudadanos* and a member of the Renew Europe Group.



## VÈRA JOUROVÀ

EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE,  
CONSUMERS AND GENDER EQUALITY



@VeraJourova



Věra Jourová is currently the European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before going to the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic.

Prior to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to European Union Accession.

## AKHRAT

Akhrat is an 20 year old girl from Iraq. Akhrat and her family applied for the “children’s pardon” in the Netherlands but unfortunately the State rejected this. Thereafter they applied for a residence permit based on the medical records of her mother and youngest sister (who is mentally and physically disabled). This application was also rejected. In 2014, nine years after they first arrived in the Netherlands they finally received a residence permit.

Akhrat has acquired a lot of experience in advocacy with Defence for Children:

- At ministry level
- In politics
- Through theatre
- At demonstrations
- Radio, television and newspapers



## MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY

DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDAMENTAL  
RIGHTS AGENCY



@EURightsAgency



Since 2015 Michael O'Flaherty is Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. Previously, he was Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland Galway and served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. From 2004-2012, he was a member of the United National Human Rights Committee, latterly as a Vice-Chairperson.

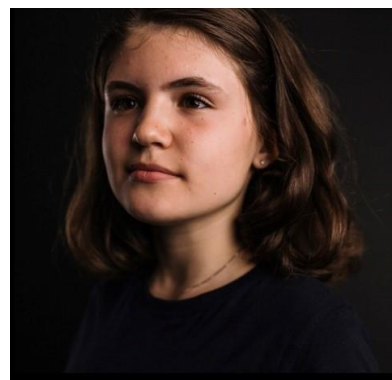
Michael O'Flaherty has held a number of senior posts at the United Nations, including the establishment of the UN human rights field missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone.

Prof. O'Flaherty came to NUI Galway from the University of Nottingham where he was Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-director of the Human Rights Law Centre. He is currently adjunct Professor of Law at the National University of Ireland Maynooth.

## RAINA

Raina Ivanova is a 15 years old climate activist. She supports that every child has the right of a future but believes that this right is being abused by almost every country.

She is one of the 16 petitioners who filed a legal complaint against five countries.





## SIODA

Sioda, 14 years old, hails from Mayo, Ireland, where she is a member of a local youth council. Since April 2019 Sioda is a member of the Eurochild Children's Council, and supported by Foroige, a National Youth Organisation and the Irish Children's Rights Alliance. Sioda is also a youth researcher with Tusla, the Irish Child and Family Agency, where she engaged with teenagers to understand the impact of social media on their mental health.

Recently, Sioda spoke at the Irish Parliament at the very first Youth Assembly on Climate, together with 157 other Irish children and young people. Together, the assembly of children and young people recommended actions to take against climate change under five different topics: Power, Transport & Education, Agriculture, Economics, and Environment.

## MARIE-LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA,  
EUROCHILD PRESIDENT



@MarieLouise\_MT



Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca was unanimously approved by Parliament as the ninth President of Malta, after being active in politics for forty years, and serving in Parliament for sixteen years, including as Minister for Family and Social Solidarity.

As Minister she appointed, for the very first time, National Commission for Children's Rights and started a complete reform to transpose the UNCRC into national legislation. She introduced child participation in the drafting of the necessary legislation.

She is a Member of the Council of World Women Leaders; a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador for Equality, and as of April 2019 President of Eurochild.



## LUCY NETHSINGHA

CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS (JURI)



@LNethsingha

Mrs Lucy Nethsingha is a Liberal Democrat MEP for the East of England, elected in May 2019. She chairs the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs.

Ms Lucy Nethsingha is a Cambridgeshire County Councillor. Prior to her election to the European Parliament, she was leader of the Liberal Democrat group on the Council. She was also Deputy Chair on the Children and Young People's Board at the Local Government Association. She chaired the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee, where she played a key role in scrutinising the work of the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



## MARIE ARENA

CHAIR OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS (DROI)



@Mariearenaps

Ms Arena served as Minister of Employment and Training of the Walloon Government until 2003, when, following the federal elections, she joined the government of Prime Minister Verhofstadt as Minister for Education, Public Service, Social Integration, Cities, Equal Opportunities and Intercultural Dialogue.

After the June 2004 regional elections, she was appointed Minister-President of the Government of the French Community. She was in charge of education and social promotion and also of the portfolio of training in the government of the Walloon region.

On May 25, 2014, Ms. Arena was elected Member of the European Parliament and again in 2019 for a second term. In the European Parliament, she is a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats and chairs the Subcommittee on Human Rights.



## MARIA

Maria is a 14 year-old Young Leader from Uganda. She is the main speaker in her district children's Parliament, made up of 30 children between the ages of 11 and 17. The Members of the children's parliament meet their fellow children in the villages and collect their claims, ideas and suggestions to shape the parliament's discussions, decisions and recommendations to protect children's rights and amplify their voices. The recommendations are then presented to the adult council at the district level for action.



Maria has developed a passion for advocacy for children's rights in her community and at school. She participated in the National children's symposium where she moderated the children's talk show on violence in schools and in the community. Maria wants to become a musician and surgeon.

## SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GHANA,  
FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO RATIFY THE CRC



Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration on 10 January 2017.

As a practitioner of public administration, she worked with various organisations such as Worldspace Ghana, the Divestiture Implementation Committee, Glaxo Group Research and Hodge Recruitment.

A member of the ECOWAS Parliament between 2013 and 2017, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey worked with her colleagues to assist the Community Parliament in its advisory role in considering matters concerning the region, particularly on issues relating to fundamental human rights and freedoms, while making recommendations to institutions and organs of ECOWAS. The Hon. Minister also served as Vice Chair on the NEPAD & APRM Committees.



## BEREKET

Bereket Gebregergis Gebrehiwot is a 16 year-old student at SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College in Tema, Ghana. He hails from the SOS Children's Village Mekelle, Ethiopia. For eleven years he lived in the SOS Village where he served as President of the Village Child Parliament.

That position\_- coupled with his excellent performance in school\_- earned him a scholarship to study at the SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College, an IB world school in Ghana.

He has interests in programming, electronics, astronomy, Taekwondo, and enjoys helping and working with others.

At the SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College he has become proficient in English and learned to live in harmony with children and young people coming from 14 African countries.



## CHARLOTTE PETRI GORNITZKA

UNICEF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



@CharlottePetriG

Charlotte Petri Gornitzka took up her role as Assistant Secretary-General and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships, on 15 October 2018.

Ms Petri Gornitzka, who served as the Chair of the Development Assistance Committee at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development prior to her appointment, brings to the position 20 years of experience in international development. She was previously Secretary-General of the International Save the Children Alliance (2008–2010) and Save the Children Sweden (2003–2008), following six years as Under-Secretary-General and Director of Communications at the Swedish Red Cross (1998–2003).



## VELINA TODOROVA

MEMBER OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON  
THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Ms Todorova is a Bulgarian lawyer, Associate Professor (Docent), Ph.D. in Sociology of Law at Law Faculty, University of Plovdiv and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She is an expert on family law and children's rights with extensive law making experience in the areas of family law, child care and protection, justice for children, domestic violence and rights of children with disabilities. Deputy Minister of Justice (2011-2013). Ms Todorova is member to the Commission on European Family Law (CEFL). She is published nationally and internationally.

Ms Todorova was awarded by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria for extraordinary contribution for the protection of the rights of the child in Bulgaria and on the occasion of 25th anniversary of the UN CRC (2014).



## BEATA KEMPA

MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (DEVE)



@BeataKempa\_KPRM



Between 1998 and 2005, Ms Kempa was the councillor of the city of Syców in Poland.

She was a Member of the Polish Parliament for 14 years.

In 2015, she became a minister in the Polish government and head of the Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers. In December 2017, she became the minister responsible for international and humanitarian aid.

In May 2019, she was elected a Member of the European Parliament. Ms Kempa is a member of the Committee on Development (DEVE), the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM).

## EWA KOPACZ

VICE-PRESIDENT AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COORDINATOR  
ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



@EwaKopacz

Ewa Bożena Kopacz is a Polish MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament.



Prior to her election to the European Parliament, Ewa Bożena Kopacz was Prime Minister of Poland (2014-2015). She served as Minister for Health from November 2007 to 2011. She held the position of Marshal of the Sejm in 2011- the first woman to have held this post.

In 2015, Forbes magazine described her as one of the leaders of the European Union and ranked her as the world's 40th most powerful woman.

She was appointed to the position of European Parliament's Coordinator on Children's Rights by President Sassoli in July 2019.

## FABIO CASTALDO

VICE-PRESIDENT



@FMCastaldo



Fabio Massimo Castaldo serves as a Vice-President of the European Parliament, a position he has held since July 2019. He belongs to the Five Star movement and sits on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Security and Defense. He holds the portfolios for Human Rights and Democracy, and replaces the President of the EP in relations with South America, European business networks and with global institutions such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

In the previous legislature, during his first parliamentary mandate, Fabio Castaldo became in November 2017, the youngest Vice-President in the history of the European Parliament, serving until the end of the parliamentary term.

